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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,628	11/13/2001	Ronald L. Ream	112703-203	4209

29156 7590 10/12/2006

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EXAMINER

VENKAT, JYOTHSNA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/990,628	Applicant(s) REAM ET AL.	
	Examiner JYOTHSNA A. VENKAT Ph. D	Art Unit 1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of terminal disclaimer and remarks filed on 7/26/06. Claims 9-26 are pending in the application and the status of the application is as follows:

The instant application is a CIP of 09/510,878, which is a CIP of 09/286,818. There is no support for gum center in 09/286,818. There is no support for the active ingredient drawn to stimulants, antacids, and minerals in 09/286,818. Therefore the filing date of the instant application is 2/23/00 based upon the parent application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 9-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U. S. Patent 6,949,234 ('234).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of

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invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

The filing date of the patent based upon PCT/US99/29742 is 12/14/99.

Patent '234 teaches method of producing active agent coated chewing gum product. See the title; see col.s 6-8 for the active ingredient, See examples for the gum center formulations using the active ingredient. All examples do not have shellac layer. The patent at col.13, lines 27-42 teaches coating of about 50% and also teaches that it can be increased to 75%. See col.12, lines 27-57 for xylitol, maltitol dextrose, xylitol (claims 12 and 21) aspartame, sucralose, saccharine and acesulfame-k of (claims 14 and 23). Patent at col.15, lines 10-15 teaches that sugar or sugarless gum center tablets can be coated.

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare gum product of '234 and increase the coating in some of the examples to at least 50%. One of the ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to increase the coating with the reasonable expectation of success that the gum products with increased coating would also exhibit increased transmucosal absorption. This is a prima facie case of obviousness.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/26/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants Argue that patent '234 is not a proper reference since they are based on the same parent application as the currently pending application and the patent should be removed as prior art reference for the currently pending application.

In response to the above argument, ***the instant application is a CIP of 09/510,878, which is a CIP of 09/286,818. There is no support for gum center in 09/286,818. There is no support for the active ingredient drawn to stimulants, antacids, and minerals in 09/286,818, therefore the filing date of the instant application is 2/23/00 based upon the parent application and the filing date of the patent '234 is 12/14/99 since patent '234 is continuation of PCT/US99/29742.***

Claims 9-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U. S. Patent 6,627,264 ('264).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in

the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

The filing date of the patent based upon PCT/US99/29742 is 12/14/99.

Patent '234 teaches nutritional supplements and method of making them. See the title; see col.s 6-8 for the active ingredient, See examples for the gum center formulations using the active ingredient. All examples do not have shellac layer. The patent at col.21, lines 45-52, col.22, lines 48-58 for coating. See col.17, lines 15-40 for xylitol, maltitol, dextrose, xylitol (claims 12 and 21) aspartame, sucralose, saccharine and acesulfame-k (claims 14 and 23). Patent at col.23, lines 13-20 teaches that sugar or sugarless gum formulations.

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare gum product of '264 and increase the coating to at least 50%. One of the ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to increase the coating with the reasonable expectation of success that the gum products with increased coating would also produce release-modified active agent for use in chewing gum. This is a prima facie case of obviousness.

Applicants Argue that patent '234 is not a proper reference since they are based on the same parent application as the currently pending application and the patent should be removed as prior art reference for the currently pending application.

In response to the above argument, *the instant application is a CIP of 09/510,878, which is a CIP of 09/286,818. There is no support for gum center in 09/286,818. There is no support for the active ingredient drawn to stimulants, antacids, and minerals in 09/286,818, therefore*

the filing date of the instant application is 2/23/00 based upon the parent application and the filing date of the patent '264 is 12/14/99 since patent '264 is continuation of PCT/US99/29742.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTHSNA A. VENKAT Ph. D whose telephone number is 571-272-0607. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30-7:30:1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL WOODWARD can be reached on 571-272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


JYOTHSNA A VENKAT Ph. D
Primary Examiner
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